

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/509,021

Examiner

Hani Kazimi

Applicant(s)

JUNGER, PETER J.

Art Unit

3691

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/23/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 48-56.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 12/14/00; 6/11/01; 3/20/01; 10/26/01; 1/22/02; 2/08/02; 2/25/02; 3/08/02; 7/12/04;.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on March 23, 2007. Claims 48-56 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

3. The prior art of record (Discount Store News) discloses, the main features of the present invention such as scanning a UPC code when a product is purchased (e.g.) a Nintendo machine, and at the same time, scanning a separate code that contains the serial number of that particular Nintendo machine. Both codes are then transmitted and stored in a database for later retrieval for the purpose of verifying the validity of the product's return against applicable return qualifications.

Even though the prior art of record teaches a system for managing product returns performing the above mentioned steps, the prior art of record fails to teach a system for validating consumer returns of purchased products comprising, a first information processing system for accessing a product registration database and determine whether the product qualifies for return based on a unique product identifier, the transaction information and the return criteria associated with the product sought to be returned (the return qualification information stored in the database is the information

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disclosed in the specification figure 6, under registration center database; and transmit to the first information processing system product information that indicates whether the product qualifies for return; wherein said first information processing system includes a customer interface, accessible by a purchaser over the Internet after a purchased product has been registered in said product registration database, which enables a purchaser of a purchased product to enter a unique product identifier for a- the purchased product and purchaser identification information which identifies the purchaser of the purchased product, said first information processing system being operable to store said purchaser information in said product registration database in association with said product information based on said unique product identifier. For these reasons claim 48 is deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record, and claims 49-56 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for allowance."


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hani Kazimi whose telephone number is (571) 272-6745. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-2 17-9197 (toll-free).



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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June 11, 2007